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PROTECTION OF OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

(Section II, chapter 9 of Agenda 21)

Text submitted by the Chairman on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.21

Addendum

Attached is the revised text of Programme F of document A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.21.

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F. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL, INCLUDING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

Basis for Action

125. It is recognized that the role of international cooperation is to support and supplement national efforts. Implementation of strategies and activities under the programme areas relative to marine and coastal areas require effective institutional arrangements at national, regional and global levels, as appropriate. There are numerous national, and international including regional institutions, both within and outside the United Nations system, with competence in marine issues, and there is a need to improve coordination and strengthen links among them. It is also important to ensure that an integrated and multisectoral approach to marine issues is pursued at all levels.

Objectives

126. States commit themselves, in accordance with their policies, priorities and resources, to promote institutional arrangements necessary to support the implementation of the programme areas in this chapter. To this end, it is necessary, as appropriate, to:

a. Integrate relevant sectoral activities addressing environment and development in marine and coastal areas at national, regional and international levels, as appropriate.

b. Promote effective information exchange and, where appropriate, institutional linkages between national and regional institutions dealing with environment and development in marine and coastal areas.

c. Promote within the United Nations system, regular intergovernmental review and consideration of environment and development issues with respect to marine and coastal areas.

d. Promote the effective operation of coordinating mechanisms for the components of the United Nations system dealing with issues of environment and development in marine and coastal areas, as also links with relevant international development bodies.

Activities

Management-related:

GLOBAL

127. The General Assembly should provide for regular consideration, within the United Nations system, at the intergovernmental level of general marine and coastal issues, including environment and development matters, 1/ and should request the Secretary-General and Executive Heads of United Nations agencies and organizations to:

a. Strengthen coordination and develop improved arrangements among the relevant United Nations organizations with major marine and coastal responsibilities, including their regional components.

b. Strengthen coordination between those organizations and other United Nations organizations, institutions and specialized agencies dealing with development, trade and other related issues economic issues, as appropriate.

c. Improve representation of United Nations agencies dealing with the marine environment in United Nations system-wide coordination efforts.

d. Promote where necessary, greater collaboration between their agencies and regional coastal and marine programmes.

e. Develop a centralized system to provide for information on legislation and advice on implementation of legal agreements on marine environmental issues.

[128. Settlement of disputes, such as on trade and environment, should be dealt with in appropriate bilateral, regional and international forums, e.g. GATT, in accordance with established international rules and dispute settlement agreements as well as with multilateral standards to be agreed upon, giving due consideration to concerns for sustainable development. Pending enactment of such standards, States should refrain from taking unilateral non-tariff measures to protect a given marine resource.]

REGIONAL

129. States should consider, as appropriate:

a. Strengthening, where necessary, existing intergovernmental regional cooperation, the Regional Seas Programmes of UNEP, regional fisheries organizations and Regional Economic Commissions.

b. Introduce, where necessary, coordination among relevant United Nations and other multilateral organizations at the regional including consideration of collocation of their staff.

c. Arrange for periodic intraregional consultations.

d. Facilitate access to and use of expertise and technology through relevant national bodies to regional centres and networks, such as the Regional Centres for Marine Technology.

Data and information:

130. States should, where appropriate:

a. Promote exchange of information on marine and coastal issues.

b. Strengthen the capacity of international organizations to handle information and support the development of national and regional data and information systems, where appropriate. This could also include networks linking countries with comparable environmental problems.

c. Further develop existing international mechanisms such as Earthwatch and GESAMP.

Means of implementation

Financing and cost evaluation:

[131. The proposed cost for strengthening regional cooperation is $12 million per year in additional support for international organizations and regional coordinating units, and at least $25 million annually in further direct support to activities at the regional level. Improving international coordination and strengthening the global role of the United Nations system to implement Agenda 21 in oceans and coastal areas would cost a proposed $12 million per year, which would approximately double present expenditures and would catalyse and coordinate much larger national expenditures.]

Scientific and technological means, human resource development and capacity-building:

132. The means of implementation outlined in the other programme areas on marine and coastal issues, under the sections on Scientific and technological means, human resource development and capacity-building are entirely relevant for this programme area as well. Additionally, States should, through international cooperation, develop a comprehensive programme for meeting the core human resource needs in marine sciences at all levels.

Notes

1/ This paragraph may need to be reviewed in the light of the outcome of discussions on general UNCED follow-up.